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DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

August 11, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HWS*

RE: Field Inspection, LaSal Mine and Pandora Mine, Umetco Minerals, M/037/026 and M/037/012, San Juan County, Utah

I visited the LaSal Mine and the Pandora Mine on August 9, 1989. I met, at the site, with John Vanderpool, Senior Geologist for Umetco Minerals. The site visit was performed to evaluate the construction of several vent holes at the Pandora and LaSal sites. The vent holes will be 6 - 7 feet in diameter and about 500 - 600 feet deep. Three new holes will be constructed at the Pandora site; two on BLM land and one on Forest Service land. One vent hole is being constructed at the LaSal site.

I received revisions from Umetco concerning both the LaSal and Pandora sites two months ago. The Pandora revision has been approved; the LaSal revision has not yet been approved.

Some questions still remain as to the correct bond amount at the Pandora site. From our recent estimates, this bond needs to be increased about \$30,000. Also, the Forest Service wants us to increase the bond to cover the vent hole being constructed on their property. Umetco is negotiating, now, with the Division and the Forest Service to come to an agreement for an acceptable bond estimate. The LaSal site, apparently, is over-bonded, so no bond resubmittal need be made for that particular site.

Of the two BLM vent holes at the Pandora site, one has already been constructed; the second is in the process of being constructed. The vent hole, to be located on Forest Service property, is also in the process of being constructed.

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The vent hole located at the LaSal site is just west of the Beaver Shaft and located on private ground belonging to a rancher by the name of Hardy Redd. The operator has encountered water problems with this hole and is trying to figure out a way to de-water the hole before continuing with the vent hole construction. The operator has received approval from the Bureau of Water Pollution Control to proceed with the de-watering of the area around the vent hole in order to continue the construction. The de-watering will involve the installation of five wells which will pump out water at the rate of about 75 gpm. The water will be channeled into irrigation ditches or canals used by some of the local ranchers. The water originates from an the Burro Canyon aquifer, some 300 - 350 feet below the ground surface associated with the Dakota Sandstone. The aquifer is used by local ranchers for crop irrigation and contains no adverse water quality constituents.

jb
cc: John Vanderpool, Umetco Minerals
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MN4/160-161